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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of : Confirmation No. 7017 MAR 11 2003
Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al. : Docket No. 2000_1327 Technology Center 2600
Serial No. 09/672,948 : Group Art Unit 2634
Filed September 29, 2000 : Examiner A. Le

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 5, 2002, the period for response to which having been extended by three months to March 5, 2003, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 16-18 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein and add new claims 19-24 as follows.

13 19. A signal transmission and receiving apparatus for transmitting and receiving a VSB modulated signal having information of a first data stream and a second data stream, the apparatus comprising a transmission apparatus and a receiving apparatus,

said transmission apparatus comprising:

- a trellis encoder operable to trellis encode the second data stream to produce a trellis encoded data stream;
- a modulator operable to modulate the first data stream, without being trellis encoded, to an m-level VSB modulated signal and modulate the trellis encoded data stream to an n-level VSB modulated signal, n being an integer larger than m,